

STATOTHR

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15 March 1962

STATOTHR

Your letter of 11 February 1962 to the President of the United States has been referred to the Central Intelligence Agency for reply.

I am enclosing a copy of a statement issued jointly by the Senate and House Armed Services subcommittees as a result of testimony of John A. McCone, Director of Central Intelligence. You will note on page 3 that no one was instructed to commit suicide and the so-called poison needle was furnished to Mr. Powers as a matter of operational equipment and was intended for use primarily if he were subjected to torture or other circumstances which in his discretion warranted the taking of his own life. Not only were there no instructions, there was no expectation that he would do so except in those circumstances.

Very truly yours,

Stanley J. Grogan
Assistant to the Director

Enclosure

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